Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

16 (Currently amended) A recombinant virus selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, adeno-associated virus and herpes virus, said recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of :

(a) nucleic acids encoding ~~a~~ the p53 Val135 mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration *in vitro*;

(b) nucleic acids comprising a ~~the~~ site for binding of p53 ~~to DNA~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(c) nucleic acids having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.

17-18 (cancelled)

19 (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The recombinant virus according to claim 16, wherein said virus comprises two nucleic acids selected from the group consisting of :

(a) nucleic acids encoding ~~a~~ the p53 Val135 mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration;

(b) nucleic acids comprising a ~~the~~ site for binding of p53 ~~to DNA~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(c) nucleic acids having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.

20 – 21 (cancelled)

22 (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting toxicity in cultured neuronal cells comprising administering to said cells a nucleic acid ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) nucleic acids encoding a mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration in vitro;~~

~~(b) the site for binding of p53 to DNA; and~~

~~(c) nucleic acids~~ encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.

23 (cancelled)

24 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein said nucleic acid ~~oligonucleotide~~ has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

25 (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid is within a vector.

26 (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the vector is a replication defective virus.